



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

NOV 25 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR Director
Information Security Oversight Office
General Services Administration

SUBJECT: Proposed Replacement for Executive Order 12065,
"National Security Information"

Your October 16, 1981 letter requests comments on a proposed replacement for Executive Order 12065, the Order that presently governs the security classification system of the Executive Branch.

The Department of Defense cannot concur in the proposed order as drafted. A number of modifications, additions, and deletions are required in order for this Department to be able to discharge effectively its considerable responsibility for the protection of information in the interest of national security.

The Department's specific comments regarding the proposed order are set forth in the attachments. Attachment 1 contains a number of necessary changes to establish a security classification of "RESTRICTED" which is critical to the effective safeguarding of a range of information that is not now generally classifiable. I believe it is appropriate at this time to establish a fourth level of security classification - RESTRICTED - to provide needed protection to certain technological, diplomatic, intelligence, cryptologic and military information. Further, this classification level is used by most of our NATO allies and its establishment in the U.S. classification system would relieve this Department of the necessity of protecting information marked foreign RESTRICTED at the Confidential level.

Attachment 2 contains the Department's other needed changes together with accompanying rationale.

Attachments - 2

Copy furnished:
Hon. Richard V. Allen,
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

No Referral - On file OSD release instructions apply.